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Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20 RSC-01

MC-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 ACDA-19 EB-11

TRSE-00 OMB-01 SCI-06 DRC-01 /110 W
---------- 076050
R 060637Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECDEF WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0856
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 1359

DEF FOR OASD/ISA DOOLIN AND ISA/SA MGEN CALDWELL
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS RP
SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO PHILIPPINE ROCKET RESEARCH PROGRAM

1. DURING DOOLIN/CALDWELL VISIT EXEC. SEC. MELCHOR REPEATED REQUEST HE HAD MADE TO CINCPAC ON OCT 9, 1973 FOR HELP IN DEVELOPING MODEST MISSILE CAPABILITY. HE STRESSED HE NOT INTERESTED IN OBTAINING FROM US COMPLETE SOPHISTICATED SYSTEM; RATHER GOP NEEDED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND MODELS.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT AIDE MEMOIRE WHICH HE HAS PRESENTED AS FOLLOW UP:
" RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN THE US FOREIGN POLICY SPECIFICALLY ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ITS TRADITIONAL ALLIES SIGNAL SIGNIFICANT CUTBACKS IN MATERIAL AID. IN AN ANTICIPATED MOVE THEREFORE, THE PHILIPPINES HAS STARTED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ENVISIONED NOT ONLY TO AUGMENT ITS PRESENT DEFENSE CAPABILITY BUT ALSO PROVIDE THE NUCLEUS FOR THE CREATION OF AN INDIGENOUS SELF RELIANT MILITARY INDUSTRAIL COMPLEX. THIS WILL ENABLE THE COUNTRY TO CONTINUE PROVIDING A CREDIBLE DETERRENT TO EXTERNAL AGGRESSION IN LINE WITH ITS
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INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS TO KEEP THE PEACE IN THE REGION.

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"IN THE LIGHT OF THE HEAVY BURDEN THAT THIS ACTIVITY WILL BEAR ON THE FINANCES OF OUR ECONOMY, THE PHILIPPINES HAS SOUGHT ALL THE POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FOREIGN TECHNICAL AID. PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES REASONABLY AVAILABLE FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES HAVE THEREFORE BEEN OF KEEN INTEREST TO OUR COUNTRY. PHILIPPINE RESOURCES APPEAR TOO LIMITED TO MEET THE REQUIREMENT OF ITS DEFENSE SECURITY OBJECTIVE WHICH INCLUDES AS OF NOW:

"(A) OPERATIONAL READINESS OF ITS PRESENT INVENTORY OF LAND, SEA AND AIR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT.

"(B) REHABILITATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE RECENTLY ACQUIRED AUGMENTATION AIRCRAFT AND SEA VESSELS.

"(C) BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND INITIAL RESEARCH ACTIVITIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MULTI-PURPOSE ROCKETS AND FUEL CELL.

"THE PHILIPPINE ROCKET RESEARCH PROGRAM:

"SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIES OF SCALE RELATE TO HAVING THE MILITARY AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES POOL THEIR RESOURCES TO CARRY OUT A MODEST ROCKET RESEARCH PROGRAM. FOR THIS REASON, THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PHILIPPINE MULTI-PURPOSE ROCKET IS BEING UNDERTAKEN AS A COMBINED EFFORT OF THE ARMED FORCES AND THE GOVERNMENT'S NATIONAL SCIENCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AFP-NSDB RESEARCH ROCKET HAVE, HOWEVER, BEEN MET WITH EARLY TECHNICAL REVERSES PRIMARILY DUE TO THE ABSENCE OF THE MUCH NEEDED LOGISTICS SUPPORT BASE. THE CRITICAL LACK OF EX-PERIENCE AND A WORKING MODEL PROVED VERY COSTLY AND HAS DRAINED HEAVILY THE MEAGER RESOURCES APPROPRIATED FOR THIS ENDEAVOR.

"TECHNICAL AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A ROCKET SYSTEM THAT WOULD HAVE BOTH PEACEFUL AND MILITARY USES WILL DEFINITELY PROVIDE THE NECESSARY RESEARCH BASE. THE ROCKET SYSTEM IS ENVISIONED TO BE UTILIZED FOR CLOUD SEEDING IN TYPHOON RESEARCH EXPERIMENTS, AS TACTICAL MISSILE DEFENSE WEAPON AND AS AN EFFECTIVE GROUND TO AIR INTERCEPTOR.

"THE PROBELM AREAS OF RESEARCH NEEDING ASSISTANCE ARE THE FOLLOWING:

"A. DEVELOPMENT OF A MORE EFFICIENT PROPULSION.

"B. DEVELOPMENT OF AN EFFECTIVE GUIDANCE AND CONTROL SYSTEM.

"C. ACQUISITION OF AN APPROPRIATE WARHEAD.

"D. ACQUISITION OF OTHER NECESSARY BALLISTICS SUPPORT SYSTEMS.

"E. TRAINING OF THE PERSONNEL TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN AND ULTIMATELY MANUFACTURE THE ROCKET SYSTEM.

"THE SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT OF THE MULTI-PURPOSE ROCKET SYSTEM WILL BE A RELEVANT SOLUTION FOR THE COUNTRY'S REQUIREMENT OF PUTTING UP A MORE PRACTICAL AND SAFER MEANS

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OF SEEDING CLOUDS FOR RAIN AND FOR MINIMIZING THE DESTRUCTIVE
EFFECTS OF TYPHOONS. ADDITIONALLY, THE EVOLVED ROCKET
SYSTEM WILL PROVIDE THE COUNTRY WITH A CREDIBLE ARMAMENT
SYSTEM WHICH WILL BE AN EFFECTIVE DETERRENT
TO ANY THREAT TO THE PEACE IN THE REGION.
"IT IS ALSO SIGNIFICANT TO NOTE, THAT THE PROVISIONS
OF THE U.S. FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ACT OF 1969 STATES:
"THAT NONE OF THE FUNDS CONTAINED IN THE AUTHOR-
IZATION SHALL BE USED TO GUARANTEE, OR EXTEND CREDIT OR
PARTICIPATE IN AN EXTENSION OF CREDIT IN CONNECTION WITH
ANY SALES OF SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS SYSTEM, SUCH AS MISSILE
UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRY OTHER THAN GREECE, TURKEY, IRAN,
ISRAEL, THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA, THE PHILIPPINES AND KOREA
UNLESS THE PRESIDENT DETERMINED THAT SUCH FINANCING IS
IMPORTANT TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES
AND REPORTS WITHIN THIRTY DAYS EACH SUCH DETERMINATION TO
THE CONGRESS.'

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20 RSC-01

MC-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 ACDA-19 EB-11

TRSE-00 OMB-01 SCI-06 DRC-01 /110 W
---------- 075973
R 060637Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECDEF
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 857
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MANILA 1359
"THE PHILIPPINES IS READY TO ABSORB ANY FORM OF
TECHNICAL AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE THAT WOULD PROVIDE THE
NECESSARY SUPPORT FOR ITS EFFORTS IN DEVELOPING A CAPABILITY
THAT WILL NOT ONLY SPARE IT FROM YEARLY DESTRUCTIONS CAUSED
BY THE EXTREMEMES OF WEATHER BUT ALSO A CREDIBLE WEAPONS
SYSTEM THAT WILL HELP INSURE LASTING PEACE IN THE REGION.
IT IS LIKEWISE WILLING TO CARRY ON THE DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH,
SHARE AND PROVIDE CHEAPER SKILLED MAN-POWER FOR THE MANU-

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FACTURE OF MULTI-PURPOSE ROCKET SYSTEMS.

"ONLY RECENTLY THE GOVERNMENT FORMED THE PHILIPPINE AEROSPACE CORPORATION WHICH WILL HANDLE SUCH ACTIVITIES AS ASSEMBLY AND MANUFACTURE OF AIRCRAFT AND HELICOPTERS TO INCLUDE OTHER RELATED UNDERTAKINGS. THIS IS CONSIDERED A BOLD STEP IN RATIONALIZING AND DEVELOPING THE POTENTIALS OF THE COUNTRY'S AEROSPACE INDUSTRY, A MAJOR ASPECT OF WHICH CHEAP SKILLED LABOR, HAS BEEN IN THE PAST A TRADITIONAL PHILIPPINE EXPORT ITEM".

3. COMMENT: FOLLOWING MELCHOR'S VISIT TO INCPAC IN OCTOBER, CHJUSMAG REQUESTED EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ELABORATE ON PLANS FOR ROCKET/MISSILE DEVELOPMENT. DETAILED ELABORATION NOT YET RECEIVED. MEANWHILE, AT MY REQUEST, JUSMAG HAS IDENTIFIED SEVERAL TRAINING COURSES WHICH MIGHT BE RESPONSIVE TO MELCHOR'S MOST RECENT REQUEST AND HAS NOTED
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POSSIBILITY THAT SOME OF OUR OLDER U.S. R & D REPORTS MIGHT NOW BE RELEASABLE. JUSMAG ALSO COMMENTS THAT COMBINATION OF ROCKETS AND EQUIPMENT ALREADY IN AFP INVENTORY APPEARS TO OFFER OPPORTUNITY FOR BASIC RESEARCH PRIOR TO MMORE SOPHISTICATED ROCKET/MISSILE DEVELOPMENT, (E.G. PAF HAS ABOUT 135 GUIDANCE AND CONTROL UNITS FOR SIDEWINDER AIR-TO-AIR MISSILES, 203 ROCKET MOTORS AND 183 WING AND ROLL ASSEMBLIES. ALSO ALMOST 1,000 5-INCH HIGH VELOCITY AIRCRAFT MOTORS AND 3,500 2.75 -INCH ROCKET MOTORS). IN ADDITION, I HAVE NOTED THAT SOME U.S. MISSILE ARTICLES SUCH AS NIKE-HERCULES COMPONENTS APPEAR IN THE MASL AND THESE WOULD PROVIDE USEFUL TRAINING VEHICLES.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: SINCE IT APPEARS GOP WILL MOVE AHEAD IN ANY EVENT WITH ROCKET/MISSILE DEVELOPMENT, I SEE DISTINCT ADVANTAGE IN OUR GIVING THEM MODEST ASSISTANCE IN TECHNICAL PACKAGE WITH TRAINING AND ADVICE AS WELL AS MODELS. IF YOU AGREE, I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE JUSMAG BEGIN DISCUSSIONS WITH MELCHOR'S COHORTS WITH VIEW TO BRINGING HERE SMALL GROUP OF EXPERTS TO DO QUICK SURVEY AND RECOMMEND WHTAT IF ANYTHING MIGHT BE FEASIBLE FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE TO GOP MISSILE DEVELOPMENT. WE ARE WELL AWARE THAT THE AFP HAS NOT YET PUT A HIGH PRIORITY ON MISSILE DEVELOPMENT, BUT I WANT TO BE RESPONSIVE TO MELCHOR'S REPEATED REQUESTS FOR HELP IN THIS FIELD.
SULLIVAN

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